

PPW & PWV Newsletter No.7 - 6th May 2021

Women Leaders and Mentors

Rev Rachel Kronberger

In our presbytery and its predecessors there have been many great women leaders and mentors. Most of them, however, have not chaired the presbytery or its committees – a pattern reflected in other presbyteries, synods and the Assembly.

In broad terms, progress on women's leadership has been slow in the Uniting Church. Although in Victoria and later, Vic/Tas, there was a pattern of alternating men and women moderators, less than a third of moderators have been women in NSW/ACT and SA, and only one ever in QLD. In July 2021 the Assembly will install Rev Sharon Hollis as its third woman, but first *ordained* woman, president. Leadership formation takes time, but it does not take 44 years.



Sharon Hollis, Denise Liersch, Deidre Palmer, Colleen Geyer

Image: Stephen Acott

The vision of the Basis of Union is that when we discern and enable the gifts of the whole people of God we flourish in our calling to be the Body of Christ. These gifts are for leadership and for all the myriad ways in which God uses individuals for the building up of the Body. It's usually hard to measure the gifts of the church but elected leaders can be counted. If we are failing to discern gifts for leadership then are we also missing other kinds of gifts among our people?

Mentoring is one important way of supporting people to discern their gifts. My mentors have encouraged me to develop gifts for leadership as well as many other gifts needed for congregational ministry. They have encouraged me to be formed for leadership by offering consistent service on the committees and councils of the church, and to bravely tick the 'leadership' box on the ministry profile form. They have also encouraged me to reshape leadership roles to take account of parenting responsibilities; and helped me to deal with comments on my appearance after worship. Many of these encouragements were from more experienced women ministers who understood that church structures and cultures can obstruct the expression of gifts. As a mentor, I seek to build people's confidence in their gifts and graces; I seek to encourage people in the ways I have been encouraged, and to consider all aspects of their life as contributing to their giftedness.

God calls the whole of who we are, and as we support the whole people of God to live into that calling we will more fully be the church God calls us to be.

Women Leaders and Mentors

A tale of two presbyteries...

Colleen Barker

PWV Safe Church Officer



I was a member of the Synod Safe church team for a number of years, that role finished in December 2019. The Presbytery of Western Victoria made the decision that Safe church was such an important part of our congregations' requirements and that they needed support to manage this. So I was offered a 0.2FTE role across the presbytery as Safe Church Officer. My role encompasses what I had been doing for Synod – making sure WWCC's were up to date and that Progress reports are kept up to date by liaising with congregations and listening to their stories. As well as this I am available to answer any questions like 'when are we going to update our training?'. I am also providing training across the regions of PWV on the Assembly Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders , providing support to congregations that have issues around 'people of concern' and liaise with Josh and Pam in the Culture of Safety unit at Synod.

Jeanne Beale

PPW Safe Church Officer



Safe Church Training on Zoom

May 26th

1 pm or 6:30 pm

<https://www.trybooking.com/BQKSV>

Combined Pentecost Worship Service

All the Uniting Churches across
the Greater Geelong area are
joining together in a celebration
service for Pentecost.

May 23rd, 2021

3 pm



If you like to sing, you are invited to join the combined choir for this event. You will need to register through this trybooking link <https://www.trybooking.com/BPVSP> or phone Rev Amanda Nicholas on 0413 617 469



Pentecost Ideas

1. You could create different stations for people to move around which all have a different aspect of the Spirit. You could focus on a particular image (flame, dove), or attribute (counsellor, coach), role or gift of the Holy Spirit. i.e. Names and titles of the Holy Spirit <http://www.gotquestions.org/names-Holy-Spirit.html#xzz3XeA2jZLm>
2. During the bible reading have people do an action like swiping their hands from one side to another and making a whoosh sound every time they hear the word wind or Spirit.
3. Pentecost Acrostic: Have the letters of Pentecost down the side of the page and get people to write things about the work of the Holy Spirit for each letter then share it with the person next to them.
4. There are many ideas online about Pentecost food including flame cupcakes, vision cookies, red scones etc
5. If you focus on wind you could have the congregation make simple kites with paper and skewers and then after church go outside and fly them.
6. A great visual expression of the work of the Spirit is to get a bottle of coke and drop a 'mentos' lolly into it. You will need to have a large drop sheet for this experiment as it will get messy.

There are also a lot of visual effects with balloons that can be fun at Pentecost. Attach a blown-up balloon to a piece of string holding the neck of the balloon. Let it go and it will scoot along the sting as the air goes out. See *Banner Idea* **Narelle Collas**



Mental Health Matters

REV. FI BOTCHER (DEACON AT SUNSHINE MENTAL HEALTH)

In my early days of ministry formation, I looked to the theological greats, often privileged white men, for grounding and guidance in my faith journey. Then one day I was working at Olive Way, the open-door community at Brunswick Uniting Church, with a volunteer called Abi whose gentle, caring presence I appreciated greatly. I was flustered this day, mumbling something unkind about a friend who was trying to convert me to her (non-Christian) faith. The nerve!

Abi listened attentively, then gently wondered whether I was witnessing my friend's deep faith, and love for me. I stopped, my "how dare she?" narrative interrupted, and realised just how greatly I admired Abi - 20 odd years my junior. Amongst other things, I had witnessed this shy, self-confessed introvert stand in front of hostile crowds to demand compassion for refugees with such authentic humility and commitment.

"Abi," I said, "You're my hero! When I grow up, I want to be just like you!"

I am constantly reminded that I am surrounded by incredible women who guide and mentor me. Their stories may never appear in the pages of a book, but their gentle presence is with me always - nudging, holding, challenging and loving.

Picture credit: The Holy Women at the Sepulchre, Rubens, c. 1611-14; <https://www.nortonsimon.org/art/detail/F.1972.51.P/>



JUSTACT is under JIM

New Public Square Project

(Click Picture for Link)

We're looking for Uniting Church volunteers willing to host a series of 3 consecutive conversations at your Congregation (between April and September). Training provided.



STORIES OF CHILDHOOD

22 MAY

Come and be nurtured, resourced and connect at our annual Stories of Childhood event - via zoom



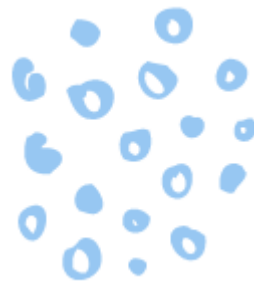
Stories of Childhood

- Sat 22 May -

UCA & Christian Playgroup Network.

For Ministers, Children and Family Workers, Pastors, Teachers and lay leaders who want to do the thinking behind what is it when we do ministry with children and their families. Especially those engaged with Playgroups, Mainly Music, Sunday Creche and Sunday School. Sessions on Children's spirituality.

Education Events



12th, 19th May, 2nd June
7—9 pm

Worship & Preaching Online Training 2021



By Mel Perkins eLM and starring many others.

8th May

Presbytery in Council

@ Hopper Crossing UCA



8th May

Ethical Ministry Refresher (Code of Ethics)

1:30 pm

@ Hopper Crossing (In-person only)



May 12th & 19th

Mental Health First Aid Certificate

9:30 am—12:30 pm.



May 15th

PWV Presbytery

9:30—4pm



May 19th

Lay Preachers Chat

2pm



27th May

Messy Discipleship Book Club

1:30 pm



1st June

Ethical Ministry Refresher (Code of Ethics)



1st—3rd June

PreachFest (Online Hubs: Stawell, Warrnambool; Ballarat; Horsham; Blackwood; East Geelong; City t.b.a.)



20
21

Lay Preacher Training

May 12 Exploring Worship 2 - Worship as Story

May 19th Worship Theology - Multisensory, Multi-Intelligence in worship

June 2nd Preparing worship & Nuts and bolts of Inclusive Worship

[Click for Picture for Link—Register for one or many!](#)

LIVE STREAMING
**PREACH-
FEST**
in YOUR PRESBYTERY

JUNE 1-3, 2021